

Washington, DC - Congressman John Hall (NY-19) announced today that the Highland Falls/Fort Montgomery Central School District is one step closer to receiving \$1.8 million in federal funding for education assistance programs. The funding has been approved in the House of Representatives but now moves onto the Senate for its approval.

The funding will be used for classroom instruction, supplies and equipment, technology, and maintenance.

“An investment in our local education system is an investment in the future of the Hudson Valley and our nation,” said Rep. Hall. “The Highland Falls School District should be able to provide the best education possible, the same as any other district in the State. I consider it a great duty to deliver the necessary funding our local education system needs and deserves.”

The Highland Falls School District in New York is host to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and is responsible for the education of children of West Point faculty and staff.

The school district's ability to meet its core mission is difficult to achieve because more than 75 percent of the school district's revenue generating land is owned by the federal government and more than 17 percent is comprised of state parklands leaving only 7 percent of land available for revenue to support school funding requirements.

As a result the districts Fiscal Year 2010-2011 budget is significantly reduced, most non-essential programs have been cut and teachers and staff have been let go. Highland Falls' residents are facing their second annual double-digit property tax increase to support the school district.

Recognizing that a long-term solution is needed to ensure that Highland Falls can continue to educate the children of West Point, Rep. Hall has proposed legislation that would remove the existing cap on the additional payments to Highland Falls, while reducing their entitlement. This will ensure that Highland Falls will no longer face a yearly shortfall, while still allowing other Impact Aid schools to receive necessary funding.